

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



February 20, 2007

**Dominican national is sentenced to 30 months in
federal prison for illegally reentering the U.S.**

A federal judge today sentenced **Francis Manuel Pena** to 30 months in federal prison for illegally reentering the United States after having been deported to the Dominican Republic.

Pena was deported in 2002 after being convicted of drug trafficking in Rhode Island.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In November, Pena pleaded guilty to the charge. At the plea hearing, First Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden said that the government could prove that Pena was illegally in the country last year after having been deported four years earlier.

An investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement determined that Pena had been living at 38 Tweed Street in Pawtucket in 2006, and that he had been in the country since at least April 2005, when he applied for a Rhode Island operator's license, giving a Providence address and using an alias.

In September, Attleboro Police arrested Pena during a drug-trafficking investigation. After he was released on bail the following day, agents from the Providence ICE office arrested Pena on a complaint charging him with illegal reentry.

After agents took him into custody, Pena made threats against the welfare of one of the agents, according to information revealed at the sentencing hearing.

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In 2000, Pena was convicted in Rhode Island Superior Court of felony drug trafficking, and, in February 2002, he was deported to the Dominican Republic.

Upon completion of his prison sentence, Pena will once again be subject to deportation.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigated the case, with assistance from Attleboro Police. First Assistant U.S. Attorney Madden prosecuted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha represented the government at the sentencing hearing.

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